

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference MLC/FM/2724 PC	FOR FURTHER ACTION	
International application No. PCT/GB2004/002539	International filing date (day/month/year) 11/06/2004	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 11/06/2003

Applicant

T J SMITH & NEPHEW LIMITED

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 6 sheets.

It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

The international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.

2. Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box II).

3. Unity of invention is lacking (see Box III).

4. With regard to the title,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. With regards to the drawings,

- a. the figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 1

as suggested by the applicant.

as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention.

- b. none of the figures is to be published with the abstract.

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Box No. IV Text of the abstract (Continuation of item 5 of the first sheet)

A component, e.g. a prosthetic ball and socket joint like an acetabular cup (11) of a prosthetic joint, having a male or female location feature (15) in a surface thereof for mutual interfit with a fixing member (12) of a fixing assembly for securing the fixing member to the surface of the component and optionally for securing the component to a second component by means of fixing a screw (13).

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 A61F2/30 A61F2/34
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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 A61F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)
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EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT
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Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 551 794 A (ALLO PRO AG ; SULZER MEDIZINALTECHNIK AG (CH)) 21 July 1993 (1993-07-21) column 2, line 51 - column 4, line 21 -----	1,4-7, 13-15, 19-25,27
X	US 6 416 553 B1 (WHITE JOHN R ET AL) 9 July 2002 (2002-07-09) column 10, line 14 - line 61 -----	1-4, 8-13,16, 20,21, 23,25-27
X	FR 2 827 503 A (MACARA FREDERIQUE) 24 January 2003 (2003-01-24) page 4, line 25 - page 7, line 11 -----	1-3
A	US 6 454 809 B1 (TORNIER ALAIN) 24 September 2002 (2002-09-24) the whole document -----	1-27



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

& document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

22 September 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report
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01/10/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.2

Claims Nos.: -

The scope of the present claims is so broad that the claims are not completely supported by the description (Art. 6 PCT). Therefore, the claims have been searched only with regard to the aspects which are disclosed in the description, namely a fixing assembly for an acetabular cup.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.5), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.

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Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210

3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No
PCT/GB2004/002539

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
EP 0551794	A	21-07-1993	AT DE EP US	133327 T 59205174 D1 0551794 A1 5549692 A		15-02-1996 07-03-1996 21-07-1993 27-08-1996
US 6416553	B1	09-07-2002		NONE		
FR 2827503	A	24-01-2003	FR CA EP WO	2827503 A1 2454672 A1 1408886 A2 03013397 A2		24-01-2003 20-02-2003 21-04-2004 20-02-2003
US 6454809	B1	24-09-2002	FR EP WO	2775586 A1 1059897 A1 9944545 A1		10-09-1999 20-12-2000 10-09-1999